

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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WINSTON, N. C.

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Winston, N. C.

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THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

See our offer to give THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one year and the Patch Corn Sheller for four dollars. This is the best sheller for the money in America. It is guaranteed and will give entire satisfaction. Send in your orders at once.

Public Printer Rounds has tendered his resignation, to take effect September the 15th.

The fair of Mt. Pleasant Grange, Cabarrus county, will be held at Mt. Pleasant September 9th and 10th.

W. H. Malone has announced himself an independent candidate for Congress from the 9th district.

Gen. Gordon has received the Democratic nomination for Governor of Georgia, leaving his competitor, Maj. Bacon, a long way behind.

The Catawba County Agricultural Association will hold its exhibition at the Fair Grounds at Hickory on the 19th, 20th, 21st and 22d of October.

In the Convention for the 10th Judicial district, at Morganton, on the 29th ult., Judge A. C. Avery was renominated by acclamation, and W. H. Bower, on first ballot, for Solicitor.

A bill for the erection of a United States building at Charlotte, to cost \$100,000, has been favorably reported by the Senate Committee on public buildings and passed.

In the Judicial Convention for the third district, held at Wilson last Wednesday, Judge H. G. Connor was unanimously renominated for Judge, and D. Worthington for Solicitor.

The House of Representatives has accepted the Senate amendment to the Oleomargarine bill, making the tax two instead of five cents a pound. The bill received the signature of the President Monday.

Ex-Governor Franklin J. Moses, of South Carolina, is dying in a cell in the Massachusetts Penitentiary. He was a man of more than ordinary ability and promise, but fell a victim to bad habits and became an outcast.

From the report of Joseph S. Miller, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the receipts of the past year were \$116,902,845, \$4,481,724 more than the preceding year. Of this sum Illinois paid \$23,085,252, Kentucky \$15,746,946, New York \$14,365,208, Ohio \$12,921,349.

The Town Fork News, the paper published at Stokesburg and Walnut Cove, appeared last week, and a right clever paper it is. It will be devoted to making known the advantages and resources of the section in which it is published, and will do much good if properly supported, which we trust it will be. Its manager, Mr. N. M. Pepper, is a live, progressive man, and has a pithy way of talking plainly and to the point.

The Asheville Citizen indulged in some remarks of a jocose kind last week on the subject of "hung juries" in the Inferior Court, in which it incidentally remarked that it would be a good thing if the Court were "hung" too. The presiding justice, Shuford, took exception to this as reflecting upon the Court and had a process issued against the three editors for contempt. There was a large array of counsel on both sides, and the result was that the editors were fined \$100 apiece, from which they took an appeal, and propose to keep on appealing.

Capt. J. W. Fry has been elected Superintendent of the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley Railroad in place of Maj. M. S. Dunn, resigned. We congratulate the Company, and not only the Company, but the public having business with it, on securing the services of Capt. Fry, who is not only a thoroughly equipped railroad man but one of the cleverest gentlemen within the range of our acquaintance.

The time for gathering corn-fodder will soon be upon us. Do not stack it out in the field. It is a waste of time—a waste of fodder, and hence a waste of money. As it is cured take it to the barn or shelter and pack it away nicely. As it is managed on a great many of our farms we know of no crop that costs as much, in proportion to its value, as corn-fodder and the chief cost is the wasteful practice of stacking it out in the weather.

We are indebted to Senator Vance for a copy of his very able and witty speech on the Oleomargarine bill. The speech is marked by that originality of thought and expression, and that devotion to conviction and duty characteristic of Senator Vance when discussing questions before the Senate, where his voice always commands respect and attention.

The Society for the promotion of Agricultural Science will hold its seventh annual meeting in Buffalo, N. Y., on 16th and 17th inst. Chas. W. Dabney, Jr., Ph. D., of the N. C. Experiment Station, in this State, will read papers on the fertilizer resources of the South Atlantic States and on cotton hullashes.

At a meeting of the trustees of Wake Forest College on the 30th ult. J. R. Duggan, Ph. D. and Fellow of Johns Hopkins was elected Professor of Chemistry, Geo. W. Manly, Ph. D. of Leipzig, Professor of Latin, and W. H. Michael, A. M., of West Virginia, Assistant.

Congress will adjourn some time this week. Monday was the day agreed upon, but the Houses got hung up by failure of conference committees to agree on certain bills.

FALLOWING.—SEEDING TO CLOVER, GRASS AND WHEAT.

"I want to give you a point which may be of benefit to the farmers and it was gained by twelve years experience. In August I would follow my land,—always when the weeds were in bloom, if I could, but at all events before their seeds had matured. I took pains to turn under the weeds well, and with the ground in the best condition. I at once seeded it down to clover and orchard grass using 1½ bushels of the latter and 10 pounds of the former to the acre. Simply sowed it down broadcast on the loose soil and left it. In the fall at the proper time I went with my drill and sowed it in wheat. I never failed to get a good catch of clover and grass and to make a good crop of wheat."

"Did not an excessively warm spell or a very dry spell affect the young clover or grass plants?" we asked. "No," said he, "and I attribute it to the fact that the crop of weeds turned under retained sufficient moisture to prevent it, and by the time the young wheat plants were large enough to begin to need food, these weeds were sufficiently decomposed to begin to supply it. Two of the leading farmers of my neighborhood laughed at me when I first tried it and advised me—one of them, to 'take the seed back to the merchant and get him to take them back even at a discount'—the other advised me to 'feed them to the chickens.' But I went on and succeeded as I tell you. Tell the farmers to try it—if only on one acre—but you needn't publish my name."

"Of course not," we replied. "This is characteristic of the average North Carolina farmer, but we thank you for the item for our paper."

This is one of the ways to do good. If farmers will not write their experiences for their paper, let them call at our office and tell them to us. Your brother farmers need the benefit of your experience and it should be your pleasure to give it to them.

SAVE YOUR CLOVER SEED.

A sensible communication appears in last week's Charlotte Democrat urging the farmers of Mecklenburg county to save their clover seed, from which we clip the following:

"This season has been a fine one on clover and all other grasses, as can, no doubt, be attested by our cotton farmers. The second cutting, or seed crop of clover, will soon be ready, and from practical experience in sowing seed here in Mecklenburg county, I know the yield per acre is equal to that of any other State, or section. If Northern and Western farmers make money on seed, why can't our farmers do so? The Northern and Western farmer is quick to see what crops give him money, and he acts at once. The farmers of Mecklenburg county sow ten times more clover seed than they did ten years ago, and all their seed comes from the North and West, but a majority of them sow too sparingly on the land which they seed, and not until they begin to sow their own seed will they sow thick enough to make a full stand. Last spring clover and all grasses were very high and scarce, owing to the foreign demand and the short seed crop West. The same seed sold from the West had to be shipped back, thus causing a double demand and making very high prices. Grass seeds are always looked upon and regarded as good stock; they always bring spot cash in every market and the farmer who has his big stock of clover seed feels independent, knowing it is as good as gold. The yield per acre varies like all other crops, but when hay is allowed to stand for seed it runs from two to five bushels per acre. At last season's prices this would give from \$17 to \$40 per acre, besides giving the first cutting of hay, which is equal to \$20 to \$40 more at \$1.00 per 100 lbs. cured. After the seed are threshed the hay is better by having passed through the machine. The waste of hay by threshing is one-third to one-half, but as the seed comes out of the second cutting and this cutting always salivates, then it seems to be in favor of threshing seed by great odds. As to any particular mode of preparing the clover for seed there is none. First of all is to let it get thoroughly ripe, or the heads must become black and the stem near the head dry. Out either with reaper, mower, or by hand blade. Allow the hay to lie until thoroughly dry, when it should be hauled up and sheltered. But care should be taken to haul in the mowing while the head is a little moist from dew, so as not to scatter the seed. As to threshing the seed, no machine or attachment has proved satisfactory. A clover huller is the only perfect machine for threshing and cleaning."

It is a singular fact that Southern farmers are dependent to such a great extent on Northern farmers for not only grass seed, but even for the garden seed they plant, when they can have all the seed they want only for the trouble of taking care of it, not only enough for their own needs but an abundance for sale. Aside from the mere fact of the profit in dollars and cents that might be made out of clover or other grass seed adapted to this section, is the more important fact that if there were an abundance of seed to be procured, there would be much more of clover, timothy, orchard grass, &c., sown than there is, affording not only additional pasturage and feed for stock, but the material also for fertilizing lands that need fertilizing. No man, whether his farm be large or small, whether corn, cotton, tobacco, or grain, should be without his grass fields, as the food supplies for the land he tills. With the grasses and pea-vines he can not only keep up the fertility of his acres, but make them richer every year. This is no mere theory, for it has been demonstrated over and over again, some of the finest farms in the State now being what were classed as worn out old fields not many years ago.

Talk about cotton or tobacco, as money crops, all you may, they will never make the Southern farmer rich or independent. The salvation of the Southern farmer is in grass, and the sooner he recognizes the truth of this the sooner he will get on the road to ultimate success. With grass as an assistant or a feeder to the taxed soil big crops of cotton, tobacco, grain and fruit are not only possible but sure, with less worrying and less labor than the comparatively small and unremunerative crops now

require. We repeat the injunction of this Mecklenburg writer, "save your clover seed," and if you have more than you can use yourself, sell it to your neighbor. Thus you benefit yourself and him at the same time.

A FARMERS' PICNIC.

Cedar Grove Farmers' Club picnic on Saturday was a success. Field and wood were flooded with the almost scorching waves of heat, but merry voices and smiling faces, grateful shades, an abundance of cold, refreshing spring water, comfortable seats, and wagon loads of baskets well filled, guaranteed a day of joyous pleasure.

The officers and members of the Club, with their wives, sons and daughters, and the whole people of the community, left nothing undone that might contribute to the pleasure of the occasion. The arrival of the band wagon, over which floated "the flag of the free," drawn by four splendid bays, was the signal for the assembling of the crowd. After a speech by the writer, it was next in order to examine the contents of the baskets. The President cordially invited every one present to the table, and while the performance was characterized by a freedom which was limited only by capacity, there was found to be "an abundance and to spare." The afternoon glided off pleasantly with songs and instrumental music, social chit-chats, among the married and unmarried, and rollicking pleasures among the children. The behavior and decorum of the crowd was as genteel as it was unrestrained. "Hold yourself in readiness to be with us again next year, for this is but the beginning," said a happy old father, and we were gratified to hear it, for there is no one class of people who see so little of social pleasure as the farmers. Every club, every community of farmers should have their annual reunions, where they and their children and their friends may come together and renew those social ties which so strengthen the bonds of friendships and brotherhood.

PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is a science. It is no mere occupation to be taken up and pursued by anyone who sees fit to engage in it. There are thousands of men upon the farm who are not farmers in the proper sense of the word, and never will be. They plow, they sow and they reap, but they do it like machines. They see nothing, they note nothing, but go on in the old hum-drum way plowing and planting, as their fathers did before them, without being able to give a good reason for anything they do. They turn the soil in the same way their fathers did, know nothing about the character of the crops they grow nor the land they grow it on; starve the land to death and half starve themselves while they are doing it. They remain poor all their lives, of course, and it would be the most singular thing in the world if they didn't. They farm with their hands, their muscle, simply, not with their brains; but it is the brain farming only that pays. Nature is kind and generous. She delights in reproduction, and if by accident or the hand of man seed fall upon soil adapted to it, she will nurse it, feed it, and cause it to bring forth of its kind. Thus nature aids and rewards him who plants, however ignorant he may be of the art of planting, but thrice-fold does the aid and reward him who studies her, and plants and cultivates intelligently.

In some countries agriculture has made great progress, because the people made progress; in others none, because the people made none. In fact there is no better criterion of the progress of a people than the progress on the farm. In the valley of the Nile they wait for the floods and sow wheat to-day precisely as they did in the days of the Pharaohs. In Italy the peasant furrows the ground with a forked stick as a substitute for a plow, and plants his grain precisely as they did in the days of Romulus. In all these ages the average tiller of the soil in neither of these lands has learned nothing. So in India, so in China, so in Japan. The Chinese and Japanese have methods of cultivation peculiarly their own, and succeed in getting large crops from small patches by patient industry and by constant care. Close cultivation with them is a necessity to feed their multitudinous population, or they

would starve to death. But their success is not so much the result of intelligent application as of patient toil and unremitting industry. In France, Germany and England, however, the march has been onward and brain has been at work. The French and Germans are thrifty people, and while they would be regarded by our pushing Americans as slow and plodding, they cultivate their acres for all they are worth, and gather bounteous crops. In England the science of agriculture has been revolutionized within the past generation, and high culture is the order of the day. There are now in England vast areas which a generation ago were looked upon as sterile, which now, under the manipulation of intelligent cultivators, have been brought to a state of astonishing fertility.

So in our own country, while not near as much has been done as should have been done, there has been more progress made in the past quarter of a century than in the three quarters that preceded it; there has been more thinking, more writing, more observation, more experiments made, and with corresponding results. Genius has come to our aid with many kinds of labor-saving machinery, reducing the days and hours of labor and giving the farmer more time to think and to plan, if he has the inclination to think and to plan. The numerous railroads that have been constructed, running in all directions, have linked, so to speak, the farm to the town and city, and through the rapidly multiplied books, periodicals and agricultural journals, within reach of all at small price, farmers have become a reading people, and a thinking people, proud of their profession and becoming prouder of it every day, as is evidenced by the organizations they are forming and the zealous interest they are taking in these organizations, embracing in the membership in some States men who would, for culture and brain, do honor to any profession. Yes, the American farmer has made progress, and yet he has barely entered upon the great future before him, when the men of the plow are united as they should be and move on in solid phalanx, aiding each other and encouraging each other to elevate and build up the industry which they represent, the grandest and noblest of all industries.

A PLEASANT OCCASION.

"A Pic-nic in the Interest of Education" may be somewhat novel to many people, but we felt on Friday last that it was a happy idea, especially if it could be always conducted as successfully as was this occasion, by the clever trustees of Cana High School. About 1,000 persons were present and their bearing and behavior fully sustained the high character which this people have always enjoyed. Social good feeling and happy cheer characterized the occasion. Ample and complete arrangements had been carefully provided for the pleasure and enjoyment of the crowd. Rev. Mr. Wills, Rev. Mr. Hopkins, Rev. Mr. Garver, Prof. George, Mr. E. Frost, the writer and others delivered addresses on the subject of education—moral and intellectual.

We shall not soon forget an occasion fraught with so much of interest and pleasure, and especially the many acts of kindness and courtesy of old and new friends, which filled up the measure of our enjoyment. Cana is about equi-distant (25 miles) from Winston-Salem, Lexington, Salisbury and Statesville and 7 miles from Mocksville. It is in its embryo state but is fast assuming shape, and being, and promises with its advantages and the many evidences of push and go-ahead energy that are displayed on every hand, to be soon numbered among the thriving villages of our State.

In agricultural resources, Davie is one of the finest counties in our State, and in unostentatious hospitality and generous friendship her people are nowhere excelled.

LET IT BE DONE DECENTLY.

In the interest of common decency and in the name of gentility, we indulge the hope that the coming campaign in our State may be characterized by dignified and genteel bearing on the part of candidates. Mud-slinging is as disgusting as it is disgraceful and the candidate who seeks to gain the votes of decent people by such low-bred methods should be required by them to "step down and out."